

Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

Christmas Party December 14th (no meeting)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Regular HAM Gatherings
VEC Report

General Meeting Minuets
And Much Much More

Officers

President	Randy Vallee, AL7PJ
Vice President	Jim Larsen, AL7FS
Secretary	Keith Clark, WL7CSR
Treasurer	Richard Block, KL7RLB
Trustee	Jim Feaster, KL7KB
Activities Chairman	TJ Sheffield, KL7TS
News Letter Editor	Edythe Lynn KL7EL
Membership Chairman	Fred Erickson KL7VC
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Lil Marvin, NL7DL
David Stevens, KL7EB
Frank Pratt, KL7FSE

One Year Board Members

Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV
Peter Bailey, WL7BW
John Murray, NL7WW
Steve Jensen, KLØVZ
Mike Borer, WL7CKB
Dan Horvath, WL7CLX

AARC web page & Email contact addresses:

Homepage: <http://home.gci.net/~lawson/>
Email Reflector: KL7AA@QTH.NET
Webmaster: lawson@gci.net
President: vallee@gci.net
Membership: frederickson@iname.com
Newsletter: edielynn@gci.net

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting
Email: KLØEO@arri.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791
Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
AK time, every day on 145.35 MHz @ 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:
Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily
Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily
Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily
Alaska Pacific Net 14.292 MHz 8:00 AM M-F
850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM
Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local
Big City Simplex Net 146.520, 446.0, & 52.525 FM Packet
145.01 Tuesdays 8:00 PM local
ARES net 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 8:00 PM local
PARKA net 147.30/.90 Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft
146.94/34 MHz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL
224.94/223.34, 25 watts, no patch, no PL
444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 123.0/141.3 PL
KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC & QCWA
146.97/.37 MHz, 30 watts, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL
KL7M Anchorage Hillside
147.21/.81 MHz, Internet Iphone, 103.5 Hz PL
KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 3,940 ft
147.30/90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL
KL7AIR Elmendorf AFB, EARS
146.67/.07, 107.2 Hz PL
KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.
147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL
444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL
KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA club
146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL
KL7DOB, Alcantra (Wasilla Armory)
146.64/.04, simplex patch, no PL
KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.
146.76/16 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

South Central Area Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency
147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat, 103.5 HZ PL
146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat
146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat
147.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat

~~~ **HOT LINKS** ~~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

AARC <http://home.gci.net/~lawson/>

SCRC <http://www.KL7G.org>

EARS <http://www.qsl.net/kl7air>

MARA <http://www.obarr.net/mara/>

Moose Horn ARC <http://www.alaksa.net/~kl7fg>

ARES <http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska>

KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

Fairbanks AARC: <http://www.kl7kc.com/>

Yukon Amateur Radio Association:

<http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html>

HAARP Project:

<http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/projects/haarp/>

<<Amateur Radio Reference Library>>

<http://www.area-ham.org/library/libindex.html>

Hamradio: <http://www.hamrad.com/>

Solar Terrestrial Activity <http://209.130.27.95/solar/>

ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/>

Propagation Report Recording 566-1819

*Please let us know if there are other clubs pages or good starting points that should appear here*

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**ABACUS RADIO REPAIR**

**Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM,  
Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.  
Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662**

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**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** All articles from members and interested persons are very welcome. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons, please have it typed or neatly handwritten. It can be submitted by computer disk, fax, or E-mail to the newsletter editor at the address listed on the cover. Submissions must be in the hands of the editor at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

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**Regular HAM Gatherings:**

**LunchTuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, "South, on Old Seward Highway.

**Breakfast Saturdays, 7:30 AM:** Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

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**THIS MONTH'S EVENTS**

**December 4th: VE License Exam 6:30 PM,** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Hope Cottage offices, 540 W International. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**NOT December 7th:** NO AARC meeting Christmas Party on December 14<sup>th</sup> At Royal Fork South 6:30PM

**December 6th: EARS general meeting at 6:30PM** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB. Talk in on 147.67/.07 repeater.

**December 8th: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

**December 8th: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**December 11<sup>th</sup> & 25th: Moosehorn ARC general meeting at 7:00 PM** every other Thursday in the Soldotna Borough Offices on North Binkley. Talk in on 146.88 repeater or 147.42 simplex.

**December 14th: Christmas Party** (usually SCRC meeting at 7:00 PM the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at Denny's on Debarr & Bragaw. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.) In December it is the all HAM Christmas Party at Royal Fork South at 6:30PM.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>: ARES General meeting 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Will be held at Alyeska Pipeline Service Company Headquarters Building on Bragaw.

**December 18th: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International.

**December 29th: MARA meeting at 7PM** the last Friday of the month at the Fire Station 61 in Wasilla. Talk in on 146.64 - repeater.

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**QST - QST - QST - QST - QST - QST - QST**

There will be **NOT** a January newsletter. There will **NOT** be refreshments for the January general meeting. The newsletter editor & refreshments committee (of one) will be out of state, visiting her mother.

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**VEC Report**

Two AARC VEC testing session were held in Anchorage and one was held in Fairbanks during October. No sessions were

held in any other locations. The following table provides some basic statistics for October and the past 12 months:

|                                                 | Oct 2001 | Past 12 Mths |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Sessions                                        | 3        | 55           |
| Number Tested                                   | 7        | 339          |
| Licenses Granted<br>(new or upgrades)           | 5        | 161          |
| Upgrade Rate                                    | 71%      | 47%          |
| Upgrade Rate<br>Change From<br>Previous Month   | + 31%    | - 1%         |
| Passed Elements                                 | 8        | 222          |
| Failed Elements                                 | 0        | 202          |
| Element Pass Rate                               | 100%     | 52%          |
| Elem Pass Rate<br>Change From<br>Previous Month | + 52%    | N/C          |

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For Sale Mike, AL7KC at 694-6806

CW Memory Keyer, AEA Morsematic, \$75  
 Digital Signal Processor, JPS NIR-10,(new in box) \$100  
 Wooden 2x4 mast, 37 foot \$25  
 Equipment rack, standard 19-inch; 6-foot tall with open front,  
 side and rear doors, on casters, \$25  
 Guy wire, full roll of unused 5/16, \$25

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### (UNAPPROVED)

#### **Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board Meeting, November 19, 2001**

At the time of publication there were no mins.

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### (UNAPPROVED)

#### **Anchorage Amateur Radio Club General Meeting, November 2, 2001**

The AARC General Meeting was held on Friday, November 2, 2001, at The Carr-Gottstein Building on the APU Campus. The meeting was opened by President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ at 7:07 p.m.

Roger ???? made a motion to accept the minutes from the October meeting. It was seconded by John Lynn, KL7CY, and passed unanimously.

A brief Treasurers report from Richard Block, KL7RLB, indicates that we are still in good shape financially, that the Hamfest made a profit for the first time in a while, that the

gaming account was in good shape with a little boost from the permanent fund spending, and that the Life membership account and building fund account reinvestment had been completed.

We had a Technical report from Rick Marvin, KL7YF. He advises that the phone patches are back up, and that the committee is looking to train at least one person as a repeater monitor. Interested parties are asked to call Rick Marvin, KL7YF, at 346-1822 or Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX, at 277-6741

Craig Bledsoe, KL4E, introduced some young visitors who are working on their ham licenses.

Susan Woods, NL7NN, passed some health and welfare traffic that John Shull, W4IGM, had passed away.

Jim Larsen, AL7FS, presented two items from the Grant Committee that the Board had recommended for approval by the General Membership.

Item One was from the Arctic Amateur Radio Club from Fairbanks, and requested \$2,200.00.

Item Two was also from the Arctic Amateur Radio Club from Fairbanks, and requested \$2,660.00

Richard Block, KL7RLB, moved to approve each item separately. It was seconded by John Lynn, KL7CY.

Each motion carried unanimously.

President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ, then the floor over to John Lynn, KL7CY, to proceed with annual elections.

John first requested proxy votes go to Fred Erickson, KL7FE, for validation. John then offered for each candidate to make a statement about themselves, and also accepted nominations from the floor.

After voting, the results were as follows:

#### **PRESIDENT**

1. Randy Vallee, AL7PJ

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

1. Jim Larsen, AL7FS

#### **SECRETARY**

1. Keith Clark, WL7CSR

#### **TREASURER**

1. Richard Block, KL7RLB

#### **ACTIVITIES MANAGER**

2. TJ Sheffield, KL7TS

#### **THREE YEAR BOARD(full term)**

1. Lil Marvin, NL7DL

#### **THREE YEAR BOARD (final year)**

1. Frank Pratt, KL7FSE

## ONE YEAR BOARD

1. Lynn Hammond, KL7IKV
2. Peter Bailey, WL7BW
3. John Murray, NL7WW
4. Steve Jensen, KLØVZ
5. Mike Borer, WL7CKB
6. Dan Horvath, WL7CLX

During the election process, Jim Larsen, AL7FS, gave an impromptu presentation on QRP, and Craig Bledsoe, KL4E, gave a satellite demonstration and presentation.

There was a brief notice that the Christmas Party would be the second Friday in December (December 14<sup>th</sup>) at the Royal Fork South, at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.00, all you can eat. There will be a Chinese auction. (some rules will apply)

Jim Tvrdy, KL7CDG, announced the QCWA banquet to be held on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the Sourdough Mining Co. RSVP to 345-3063

There not being a quorum, no business was transacted.

John Murray, NL7WW, suggested that the RV and the generators be checked to make sure they have been winterized.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25

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## DOES THE CLUB OWE YOU MONEY??

Several members have disbursed funds on behalf of the Club expecting to be reimbursed. Most members have already submitted their Requests for Reimbursements with appropriate supporting vouchers and have already been reimbursed. There may be, however, club members who have been accumulating vouchers but have not submitted them.

The Board of Directors has determined that **all** Requests for Reimbursement **must** be submitted to the Treasurer before **December 10, 2001** together with appropriate receipts or other evidence of payment or forgo reimbursement.

The reason for this policy is that the Club needs to close its books at the end of the year with all outstanding items cleaned up. We wish to start the new year with a clean accounting slate to the greatest extent possible.

Requests for Reimbursements may be submitted to the Treasurer by hand delivering them to his office, 360 W. Benson, #300 during business hours or hand delivering or mailing to the Treasurer at his home, 2347 Hialeah Drive, Anchorage, 99517.

Any questions should be directed to Dick Block, KL7RLB, Treasurer at 277 7260 or 563 5121.

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| Anchorage Amateur Radio Club                             |  |  |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Summary of Financial Affairs                             |  |  |           |
| January through October, 2001                            |  |  |           |
|                                                          |  |  |           |
| Assets                                                   |  |  |           |
| Gaming Account                                           |  |  | \$133,246 |
| All other Current Assets                                 |  |  | \$43,982  |
| Fixed Assets                                             |  |  | \$144,274 |
| Boniface Bingo                                           |  |  | \$18,990  |
| Total Assets                                             |  |  | \$340,492 |
|                                                          |  |  |           |
| Liabilities                                              |  |  | \$0       |
|                                                          |  |  |           |
| Equity                                                   |  |  | \$340,492 |
|                                                          |  |  |           |
| Operating Income                                         |  |  | \$6,379   |
| Operating Expenses                                       |  |  | \$4,402   |
|                                                          |  |  |           |
| Gaming Income                                            |  |  | \$89,065  |
| Contributions                                            |  |  | \$10,900  |
|                                                          |  |  |           |
| Gaming Funds xfrd to General Acct.                       |  |  | \$74,000  |
|                                                          |  |  |           |
|                                                          |  |  |           |
| This summary does not include notes or other information |  |  |           |
| which are an integral part of a complete Financial       |  |  |           |
| Statement and should not be relied upon as a complete    |  |  |           |
| or accurate statement of the Club's Financial Condition. |  |  |           |
|                                                          |  |  |           |

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23 November 2001

To: AARC Board of Directors  
From: Doug Dickinson - technical support  
Re: Alyeska link project

As many of you know we've been working on a hardwire link between the AARC UHF repeater here in Anchorage, and the AARC 146.76 Mt. Alyeska repeater. We're now at a crossroads with this project.

Several things need to be kept in mind regarding this project.

1. WE ARE ALL VOLINTEERS working on OUR OWN TIME!
2. Close coordination with Alyeska is required, because of access to the top of the mountain requires use of the Alyeska Tram. (We get free rides)
3. More than 1 person is needed at the Alyeska end to make the adjustments, at the same time a tech needs to be at the Anchorage end to make return line adjustments.

4. Volunteers need to be able to all meet and work at one time. This became painfully apparent as we got into this project. Usually when two were available, the others were not. When a group could be gotten together, Alyeska needed to be assessable, this means tram open, buildings assessable, key people available at each end, and good weather. Access to the Alyeska end requires use of the Tram, high winds make this impossible. In Anchorage Snow can easily block access to the UHF site, this road is maintained, but heavy snow Or high winds that drift the road over may take several days for the road to be opened.

I can't tell you the number of times that two of us have been available only to find out that the others that have promised to be there are not. Or the mountain calls and tells us that access isn't possible due to weather or some other reason. I've taken annual leave to work on this project more than once, driven to Alyeska, only to find out that others aren't available, and didn't have the courtesy to call and let me know. Or volunteers that have told me that getting time away from their work was not a problem, only to find out at the last minute that these people didn't want to take leave to follow through on their commitment.

Rick and Lil have been more than helpful without Rick's knowledge of the long line system, and contacts in the groups we wouldn't be anywhere. More than one problem has plagued us until Rick found out the right person to talk to, and had them investigate our complaint.

To start with, working in conjunction with the Information Technology group at Alyeska we made arrangements to secure two pair from the day lodge (where the ACS circuit terminates) up the mountain to the basement of the upper lodge. The AARC would then be responsible for wiring from the upper demarcation area to the Roundhouse (location of the 76 repeater). Rick Marvin KL7YF, Lil NL7DL and several others laid a plenum 6 pair cable from the Roundhouse to the upper demarcation room. Tests of this line indicated 6db loss in one pair and >60db loss in the return pair. So now we had a UHF to Alyeska link, but no return path. (The third pair showed no continuity at all). After a very close inspection of the cable and no fault located, we removed this cable and installed a direct burial multiple pair cable. This showed < 6db loss on either pair. The link actually worked the day we left the lodge, levels were critical, but we had traffic flow both ways. This one weekend link didn't stay up, the level set was too critical, and we needed to schedule time for a tech at each end of the project to make the final adjustments. (When we finally removed this cable we found the point where the cable had been abused and the conductors were broken.)

A week ago, as we were in the process of putting the final tweaks on the system, we got a call from the General Manager of Alyeska operations. He indicated that the foreman of the electrical group was insisting that the cable had to be removed and if re-installed had to be in conduit, and that his group was the only ones allowed to do the job. In addition he threatened

the manager if it was not done his way, he would call in the fire Marshall, and any other inspector he could find, and have the upper lodge shut down.

I had no choice we had to remove the cable. And I'll be damned if I'm going to bow down to the Electrician and have his group do the install at their inflated rates for non-resort work.

I asked David Stevens if while he was down there on a job if he had the time to pull the cable, at least from inside the building. David pulled the cable, and brought it back to town.

Here's what we have:

We have a four wire dedicated line between the UHF site and the day lodge at Alyeska. We have the interface cards required to key a repeater (or radio) at each end. I have modified the AARC Kenwood 721 to allow for tone keying and interface to line cards. And taken the Alyeska end cards and coupled them to the 721.

Here's what we don't have:

We don't have a four wire circuit from the upper demarcation area out to the roundhouse where the repeater is located, and not wanting to get into the middle of politics at Alyeska I don't see a way for us to get that circuit.

Here's what 'We' can do.

1. Get permission from Alyeska to install the Kenwood at the day lodge either in the demarcation room or if needed in some other secure room. Rick put in a call to the IT chief, however he's on vacation, so we don't know exactly when that call will be returned, this guy has bent over backwards to assist the project. We will definitely need an outside antenna and either double shielded cable or helix to be absolutely sure there is NO RF leakage in the telephone room. I can supply an antenna, and I think we have some 1/4" helix in the connect we can use for feed line.

2. Find another location in the Alyeska valley that we could install a small radio package at. This facility will need AC power (less than 1 amp), outside antenna, and at least two spare telephone pairs coming into the building. (This is needed for the four-wire circuit, we would then need ACS to re-terminate at this new location our circuit.) If we take this option, then I would suggest we maybe look at the building out at highway end, this would give us coverage up and down the arm better, and also access into the Alyeska repeater. What problems exist:

1. I am physically unable to continue with much of the physical portion of this project, I expect to be either in the hospital, or possibly at home for the next month or more. Problems related to my legs are going to require some extensive surgical repairs if getting permission from my

agency to work on an outside project and getting annual leave to do it wasn't the problem, (and they have been extremely supportive of volunteers working on community projects), getting permission from my medical support group, not to mention the xyl...well just say that a snowball has a far better chance in a really hot place than. I'll have slipping away for the next month or so.

In addition Rick and Lil will be unavailable for the next quarter or so.

What this boils down to: someone(s) with time to work on the project, who are willing to do the 'leg' work, I suspect that probably no more than three days remain to complete the link, providing that either options 1 or 2 can be met.

I am more than willing to sit down and outline the project technical requirements and how the system is supposed to work. When this can happen will depend entirely on what my medical support group does with my body over the next week or so. I have circuit diagrams, project diagrams, overall descriptions, and item descriptions of the entire project.

The UHF end is complete other than final level adjustments. While in the process of getting the interface completed at the UHF end I took the time to do the annual service. Frequency, power, and deviation have all been checked, readjusted as required. Repairs of the RC-96 controller were done in conjunction with this service.

The other option to the above is to cancel the project.

I should be reachable at home if there are questions, if I'm in the hospital I do check my answering machine when I'm away. Please be sure to leave your name, callsign, and a number you can be reached, and any restrictions on calling times. Please remember that I will more than likely be medicated for pain, with all the resultant side affects.

Doug Dickinson KL7IKX  
AARC Technical support

25 November 2001  
AARC Tech report:

All AARC VHF and UHF repeaters are operating normally. Coordination of all AARC repeaters has been done.

All AARC Packet Nodes are operating normally. Coordination of all Nodes has been done.

NL7NC John is working on a new computer for the KL7AA-7 ANCBBS system, expect some downtime as he loads and tweaks new software. John is also working on the AKGATE IP gateway, and the RF interconnects.

The HF Node HF80 continues to perform, as it should. Antenna and feedline were checked earlier this month as part of routine maintenance on other systems at the same location.

The Alyeska link project: Questions on how to continue should be directed to the AARC Board of Directors, a separate report to the Board addressing this project has been filed with the board. We have had a huge setback in the project, this is outlined in the separate report, as well as options remaining.

Doug Dickinson - KL7IKX  
AARC Technical support

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**BAAAAA, Sob, Sob**  
**Jim - KL7CDG**

*Hi Jimmie,*

*Hr is Mike LZ2DF. This evenig 6 meters was open long path KL7 - ant QTF 180 degr. From my side I heard 3 KL7 STN and many time I call you at 22.40 UTC. 18.10.01 on SSB I give riport 4/4 if you copy me. QSB was strong you give riport for somebody I don't for how was. The stronger was KL7IKV - he runing JA STN on CW 50.101 khz. 559!! I call mani time him but JA was strog from me. KL7NO is also 4/4 on SSB 50.115 khz, 00:40 UTC 19.10.01*

*My rig IC 706 + 1 KW 6 over 6 el yagi ant QTH loc KN22iv portable. Let me know do you heard some from me????*

*73!!! Mike LZ2DF*

**First time ever!** And we weren't alert #\$\$%&(\*&%! Will there ever be a next time? Who knows, but you can bet all Alaska 6 meter antennas are now pointed south (long path) and we are burning the air with CQ Europe from around 2200 UTC 'til after 0200 UTC. Maybe with some luck, the path will open up again this winter. The months of Oct, Nov and Dec seem to be the peak for 6-meter activity in Alaska with November being the hottest.

I've been operating from Anchorage on 6 meters since 1956. At that time and until 1964 I ran 6 watts AM to a homebrewed rig and a 4-element beam. I picked up 38 states by the end of 1958 and, in 1959, 10 more. Wow, 48 states on 6 watts AM. All we needed was Florida, and 45 years later, we're still looking for Florida.

In 1964 we purchased a complete set of Collins S-Line minus the linear. This put us on sideband running the 62S1 at 150 watts into an 11-element Telrex beam. All we have to do is wait for the next sunspot cycle . . . and the next . . . and the next. Well here we are on the back side of the fourth cycle and still no Florida-- heck no stateside at all. Of course from my

location I have a 20DB mountain to the east that I have to look through any Florida signal coming my way.

In 1996 I retired the Collins and purchased a JST-245 and for a back-up a Kenwood TS-570SG. We monitor the ten meter frequency of 28.885 the 6 meter alert frequency and on 6 meters, 50.110 the DX calling frequency. During the time of 2000-0200 UTC (if conditions indicate a possible opening) we run the CW keyer on 50.117. Hope I'm around for the next cycle. In the meantime we will turn our antenna toward the south, run our CW keyer and calls CQ EU. (Sorry JA's).

Jim - KL7CDG

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### **Contesting Alaska Style By Randy Vallee, AL7PJ**

I've been an amateur for eight years now, the drop of one cycle to the "peak" of another. In ham lingo, the number of cycles is how you compare yourself against others.

During that time, I've been invited to the premier contest station in Alaska, KL7Y's QTH, a few times to show my beginning skills as a tester. I like to say actually that I'm honing my skills, the optimistic view of things. Anyway, mostly phone contesting, as my CW is too slow to for big time contesting.

During the last weekend in October, one of the biggest contests of the year happens, CQWW phone. This is a time when the XYL's around the world get a break from the constant noise emanating from that dark dungeon know as "The Shack". Us wannabe testers go to a bachelor's house and make lots of RF, eat badly and tell old war stories.

This year was expected to be the best yet, good solar conditions and stations in good working order. The day started out with an absolutely fantastic pace on 10M, 390 Q's the first hour. When I arrived, the first thing I did was take a nap, first things first. At about 1AM I awoke to start my shifts. 10M had slowed down, 15M was its usual screamer, and 20M was doing respectable. I got on 40M.

To understand the ominous task this is, 40 meters in Zone 1 has use of phone transmit in the 7.075 to 7.100 MHz area. The rest of the United States can't start phone until 7.150 MHz. That means the use of a radio that can transmit and listen on one frequency and listen on another frequency. Imagine this: 7.085 in one ear and 7.187 in the other ear. The proverbial Ying and Yang, JA's in the right ear and US in the left, and both want your attention. Now the added variable, I haven't used a Yaesu 1000MP Mk5 before! Nice thing is that after an hour or so, you couldn't tell.

Now you're thinking, "what's so hard about that? You own radios and have contested from home". Now enters the computer part. The program CT is made for contesting. It'll

log, read the radio, take spots from the DX Cluster, show you where needed Mults are. You know, the needed contest stuff. The icing on the cake is it has the ability to network to other computers at the contest station. This means it has a "GAB" function.

So hear I am, on the yellow brick road to happiness and WAMMMM. The gab function comes up and it's addressed to me. "DUISAN is coming, listen for him". I just got done explaining to a W4 that our signal was the biggest signal on the East Coast because I was running a 3 element 40M beam at 160' pointed east. Now I have to figure how to reply the gab, turn the antenna and turn the volume up on the right ear so I hear them. Anyway, life goes on, I worked the DU, and a bunch of JA's.

Several naps later, I was on 80M, calling CQ and picking up the occasional Q. You know, "W7 again please" when the band had its first crash. Imagine this, 20M to my left, 10M to my right and 40M behind me. We all look at each other in amazement. The next 10 to 15 minutes was visiting, checking out the dreaded Northern Lights and having a snack. What else are you going to do when all you hear is static across the bands? This happened several times throughout the night.

I awoke from a power nap to find 15M calling a lot of CQ's. Now 15M is usually the Dxr's dream band, especially when you have 5 over 5 over 5 over 5 antennas. I gave the near death from boredom operator there a break, and began my tenure at 15. This being Sunday morning, after an hour and a half, I knocked off. Something about 5 Q's in an hour kind of does a spirit in.

I did look at the score before leaving, over 21M points, over 12K Q's, DXCC on 3 bands. What a GREAT sense of accomplishment that was, 4M more that last year.

I will finish with the words of a great DX chaser "W7 you're 59 01, what's the rest of your call?"

73's

Randy - AL7PJ

### **Another Word On Contesting By Corliss Kimmel, AL1G**

I was also privileged to be invited to the KL7Y contest station during the CQ WW DX Contest. It was a great learning experience for me and I hope I will be able to go out there again!

Like Randy, AL7PJ, I had never operated the FT-1000 Mark V before. I also had to learn the many functions of the CT program. Thanks to Jim Wiley, KL7CC, for letting me come over and familiarize myself with the Mark V before the contest.

I started off on 40 meters, also having to get used to having the stereo effect in the headphones --calling CQ on one part of the

band while listening for calls on a different part of the band as well as listening for calls on my calling frequency.

Saturday night I was on 80 meters from about 10pm to 2am and it was pretty active. I even had a small pile-up going for awhile!

On Sunday I came back out to the station to the guys saying that nothing was happening because the bands had crashed. I tried 40 meters for awhile, just for the heck of it. I did hear a couple Europe and Russian stations, but they couldn't hear me.

I went over to listen to Frank, KL7FH, operating on 20 meters just to hear some signs of life out there. He turned the mic over to me to call CQ for awhile and it was pretty lively. Then I went back to listening while Frank tried to contact some of the needed multipliers out there.

I'll never forget what I heard when he tuned to the calling frequency of a very popular multiplier station calling CQ. When the operator said QRZ, I heard the most gigantic pile-up I have ever heard in my whole life! I couldn't even hear individual callsigns—only the roar of blended human voices. The operator would let it go on for 30 seconds or so and then would pull a callsign out of the melee. It was amazing!

Going up to the contest station to work on my contesting skills was the most fun that I'd had on HF in a long time. Thank you to all you guys for your helpful comments and willingness to teach me ways to improve my contesting skills.

Corliss – AL1G

### **The "Real" Deal about Nuclear, Bio, and Chem Attacks"** **by SFC Red Thomas (Ret)**

Since the media has decided to scare everyone with predictions of chemical, biological, or nuclear warfare on our turf I decided to write a paper and keep things in their proper perspective. I am a retired military weapons, munitions, and training expert.

Lesson number one: In the mid 1990s there were a series of nerve gas attacks on crowded Japanese subway stations. Given perfect conditions for an attack less than 10% of the people there were injured (the injured were better in a few hours) and only one percent of the injured died. 60 Minutes once had a fellow telling us that one drop of nerve gas could kill a thousand people, well he didn't tell you the thousand dead people per drop was theoretical. Drill Sergeants exaggerate how terrible this stuff was to keep the recruits awake in class (I know this because I was a Drill Sergeant too).

Forget everything you've ever seen on TV, in the movies, or read in a novel about this stuff, it was all a lie (read this sentence again out loud)!

These weapons are about terror, if you remain calm, you will probably not die. This is far less scary than the media is and their "Experts," make it sound.

Chemical weapons are categorized as Nerve, Blood, Blister, and Incapacitating Agents. Contrary to the hype of reporters and politicians they are not weapons of mass destruction they are "Area denial," and terror weapons that don't destroy anything. When you leave the area you almost always leave the risk. That's the difference; you can leave the area and the risk; soldiers may have to stay put and sit through it and that's why they need all that spiffy gear.

These are not gasses, they are vapors and/or air borne particles. The agent must be delivered in sufficient quantity to kill/injure, and that defines when/how it's used. Every day we have a morning and evening inversion where "stuff," suspended in the air gets pushed down. This inversion is why allergies (pollen) and air pollution are worst at these times of the day.

So, a chemical attack will have it's best effect an hour or so either side of sunrise/sunset. Also, being vapors and airborne particles they are heavier than air so they will seek low places like ditches, basements and underground garages. This stuff won't work when it's freezing, it doesn't last when it's hot, and wind spreads it too thin too fast. They've got to get this stuff on you, or, get you to inhale it for it to work. They also have to get the concentration of chemicals high enough to kill or wound you.

Too little and it's nothing, too much and it's wasted.

What I hope you've gathered by this point is that a chemical weapons attack that kills a lot of people is incredibly hard to do with military grade agents and equipment so you can imagine how hard it will be for terrorists.

The more you know about this stuff the more you realize how hard it is to use.

We'll start by talking about nerve agents. You have these in your house, plain old bug killer (like Raid) is nerve agent. All nerve agents work the same way; they are cholinesterase inhibitors that mess up the signals your nervous system uses to make your body function. It can harm you if you get it on your skin but it works best if they can get you to inhale it. If you don't die in the first minute and you can leave the area you're probably gonna live. The military's antidote for all nerve agents is atropine and pralidoxime chloride. Neither one of these does anything to cure the nerve agent, they send your body into overdrive to keep you alive for five minutes, after that the agent is used up. Your best protection is fresh air and staying calm. Listed below are the symptoms for nerve agent poisoning.

Sudden headache, Dimness of vision (someone you're looking at will have pinpointed pupils), Runny nose, Excessive saliva or drooling, difficulty breathing, Tightness in chest, Nausea, Stomach cramps, Twitching of exposed skin where a liquid just got on you.

If you are in public and you start experiencing these symptoms, first ask yourself, did anything out of the ordinary just happen, a loud pop, did someone spray something on the crowd? Are other people getting sick too?

Is there an odor of new mown hay, green corn, something fruity, or camphor where it shouldn't be?

If the answer is yes, then calmly (if you panic you breathe faster and inhale more air/poison) leave the area and head up wind, or, outside.

Fresh air is the best "right now antidote." If you have a blob of liquid that looks like molasses or Kayro syrup on you; blot it or scrape it off and away from yourself with anything disposable. This stuff works based on your body weight, what a crop duster uses to kill bugs won't hurt you unless you stand there and breathe it in real deep, then lick the residue off the ground for while. Remember they have to do all the work, they have to get the concentration up and keep it up for several minutes while all you have to do is quit getting it on you/quit breathing it by putting space between you and the attack.

Blood agents are cyanide or arsine, which effect your blood's ability to provide oxygen to your tissue. The scenario for attack would be the same as nerve agent. Look for a pop or someone splashing/spraying something and folks around there getting woozy/falling down. The telltale smells are bitter almonds or garlic where it shouldn't be. The symptoms are blue lips, blue under the fingernails, rapid breathing. The military's antidote is amyl nitride and just like nerve agent antidote it just keeps your body working for five minutes till the toxins are used up. Fresh air is the your best individual chance. Blister agents (distilled mustard) are so nasty that nobody wants to even handle it let alone use it. It's almost impossible to handle safely and may have delayed effect of up to 12 hours.

The attack scenario is also limited to the things you'd see from other chemicals. If you do get large, painful blisters for no apparent reason, don't pop them, if you must, don't let the liquid from the blister get on any other area, the stuff just keeps on spreading. It's just as likely to harm the user as the target. Soap, water, sunshine, and fresh air are this stuff's enemy.

Bottom line on chemical weapons (it's the same if they use industrial chemical spills); they are intended to make you panic, to terrorize you, to herd you like sheep to the wolves. If there is an attack, leave the area and go upwind, or to the sides of the wind stream. They have to get the stuff to you, and on you. You're more likely to be hurt by a drunk driver on any given day than be hurt by one of these attacks. Your odds get better if you leave the area. Soap, water, time, and fresh air really deal this stuff a knock-out-punch. Don't let fear of an isolated attack rule your life. The odds are really on your side.

Nuclear bombs. These are the only weapons of mass destruction on earth.

The effects of a nuclear bomb are heat, blast, EMP, and radiation. If you see a bright flash of light like the sun, where the sun isn't, fall to the ground!

The heat will be over a second. Then there will be two blast waves, one out going, and one on it's way back. Don't stand up to see what happened after the first wave; anything that's going to happen will have happened in two full minutes.

## **Part 2 coming in Feb.**

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## **ARE WE REALLY READY FOR ARES?**

**By Richard Block, WL7RLB**

Getting ready for the "big one" sometimes takes on the aspect of the surreal. We can laze our way through a drill, have some fun, and not be too concerned if the batteries run down and say, "not likely ever really going to happen anyway."

And then it happened.

As far away as Anchorage is from New York City one would not suspect that an emergency response would be called here because of an airplane crash in lower Manhattan. But of course, who would suspect four passenger jet aircraft would be hijacked on the same day and sent crashing into buildings killing thousands.

But a state of emergency was called in Anchorage on September 11. The Emergency Operations Center was opened, activated and fully staffed. There were local emergency situations developing and requiring response throughout the first morning, throughout the first several days following September 11. ARES was activated within a few hours of the first crash and remained activated for three days.

It certainly cannot be said that Anchorage ARES was as fully involved as those amateur volunteers in the New York City area. Their story is chronicled in the November, 2001 issue of QST. But ARES volunteers did provide valuable communications support for a rapidly unfolding and uncertain series of events in Anchorage.

There were several lessons learned from that experience. The first and overarching lesson was that as unexpected, as farfetched, as fictional as a drill scenario may seem, it will never be as surprising, as farfetched, as complex as the real thing was and could be. Accordingly, we should prepare for the most bizarre demands upon us if we are offering to make a useful contribution to an emergency response effort.

There were other lessons learned that everyone interested in participating as a backup communicator in an emergency situation must consider.

1. It is imperative for everyone wishing to be involved be registered with ARES. The morning of 9/11, over 34 volunteers signed into the ARES VHF net and offered to be of assistance. That was impressive. It favorably impressed the City officials at EOC. The trouble was that many of the volunteers were unknown to Net Control, or if known by name and call sign, their capabilities and availability were unknown. Who had HF? Who had emergency standby power? Who could be called upon to drive several miles to a control point? Who was trained on running packet? On a Tuesday morning, who could be relieved of work to participate in communications if necessary?

ARES has a registration form in which much of this information is provided. Unfortunately only six people had completed the form.

It is ARES intention to make the form more readily available. In fact, it will shortly be available on the web and can be completed and returned through the Internet. Then it is the intent to permit only those who have registered to officially participate in an ARES emergency response.

2. It is imperative that everyone wishing to be involved have proper ID as an ARES communicator. Because the 9/11 event involved terrorism and there was great concern over who should have access to sensitive response information, the EOC as well as several other locations including hospitals, military bases, the airport, city facilities, and many public utility facilities were off limits without proper photo ID. It was cumbersome at the EOC to be continually making entry arrangements for volunteers because they had no ARES ID. Once the registration system is up and running, ARES will issue ID badges to those who have registered and met the training requirements.
3. It is imperative that everyone wishing to be involved be properly trained. It may seem unnecessary for some amateur radio operators who have been operating radio for so many years to feel they need more training. Certainly no training is needed in running radios and no Extra Class or Advanced Class license holder should feel insulted because they are asked to take some training. Such things as working in an Integrated Support Command is not something amateur radio operators are used to, yet it is the way all emergency responses are handled if it involves multiple agencies. Familiarity with the pro-words, forms, procedures, frequencies, etc. of other

communication regimes, such as law enforcement, military, aviation, etc., requires some orientation and practice. Other skills, such as map reading and data management, may also make our services more useful and more part of the effort.

For this reason, Anchorage ARES will concentrate more heavily on training opportunities. The ARES net on Thursday evenings will be geared to more communications exercises. Weekend and evening classes in emergency communications and ISC operations will be offered locally and through ARRL and the internet. There will be hands on training using the ARES portable radio kits and, when ready, the ARES mobile command center will become the focus of operational training. Training will also include visits to other EOC's and command centers.

4. It is imperative that everyone wishing to be involved be prepared. A handheld VHF radio and a rubber ducky may qualify one for minimal amateur communications but it does not offer much in the way of backup communications to official agencies of the government in the event of an emergency. This is not a call for those wishing to volunteer to mortgage the house and buy elaborate electronics. It is a call for everyone wishing to volunteer to use some common sense and think about whether they are really ready to make a contribution. Some of the scenes during 9/11 make the point. One person was relying exclusively on a handheld VHF but did not carry adequate battery backup. Another used a handheld that was new to him and he did not know how to program it for newly assigned frequencies—and left the manual at home. Some found they did not have paper and pencil and could not take important notes. Flashlight? Map? Adequate fuel in the vehicle? Tape, of the electrical, duct, scotch and masking variety for all sorts of things? The list is long. The point is that everyone wishing to be part of the solution and not part of the problem should consult with an experienced amateur or ARES member and go over the list.
5. Finally, it is imperative that ARES as an organization be properly equipped. The ARES station at the Municipal EOC is not properly equipped to do the job. Proper antennas, radios, computers, cables, interphones, forms and office supplies need to be placed at the ARES operating station. Some progress has already been accomplished as coax cables were run from the roof to the ARES station during the 9/11 emergency. Some budget has been approved for more radio equipment at the station and more will be forthcoming. A computer system is being built to store and usefully access the registration information so that it is available at the Municipal EOC as well as the ARES mobile command center.

Anchorage ARES has a tradition of being of value in times of emergencies. Now, however, the demands will be so different and the amateurs who will be involved will likely not be those who helped in the earthquake or Miller's Reach Fire. They will be the newer hams. We now know the surreal can be the real and Anchorage ARES is going to get ready for the "Big One".

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### AARC Club Projects- A Progress Report

Hi all – here is a progress report on a few of our many club projects.

First, the club's mobile communications center project is progressing, although a bit more slowly now that Winter has arrived. We have completed the modifications required to allow us to mount antennas on the roof structure, and have begun the process of construction of the inside operating positions. A group of club members have prepared drawings that will allow us to place antennas and operating positions to best advantage. Our present plans call for conversion of the rear bedroom area into two operating positions, equipped for VHF/UHF, HF, and Satellite operations. We also anticipate integrating packet radio systems into these stations. We will be installing a VHF/UHF dual band radio, a CB radio, and a multi-service scanner at the driver's position, and another dual band station in the "copilot" position. We plan to install several additional items, but these just mentioned positions will be brought on line first, to give us some experience and to see if adjustments need to be made before additional hardware is installed. The rig will also feature a VHF packet radio "tracker" that will use the APRS system and a GPS unit to allow us to know its precise location at all times. John Lynn has put forth a convincing argument to install a small telephone switch that will allow inter-station communications within the motor home and also allow us to connect directly to external users. We are hoping to have this rig configured and ready to provide a basic level of service in time for the combined Fur Rendezvous and Iditarod public service events. Items needing to be completed include installation and wiring for power systems, including batteries, chargers, distribution and control for 12V DC and similar control and distribution for 120/240V AC circuits. In addition to power systems, we needed to install HF and VHF/UHF antennas, including satellite antennas, plus computer interconnections, intercom/telephone wiring, RF cabling, message boards, and the ancillary equipment (loud speakers, microphones, computers, printers, etc.) needed to make each station operational. We are working on getting a place where the rig can be parked inside a heated building so work can continue without interruption.

Radios for "other" services that we anticipate installing include: Anchorage Police, Anchorage Fire Department, Alaska State Troopers, Mat-Su Police and Fire, VHF Marine, VHF Aircraft, Municipality of Anchorage utilities, Chugach Electric, Enstar, and GMRS UHF. We would also be able to

operate on any of the number of HF Alaska Public channels, and most of the HF marine and aircraft channels. Some of these sets may be donated, others purchased directly, depending on which entity is involved. In each case, with the exception of the marine and aircraft band sets, we would operate under the license of the agency involved. We would obtain our own special service license for the marine and aircraft band sets.

We have already been contacted by the Anchorage School District about bring the motor home and a portable ham radio demonstration around to many of the local middle and secondary schools. If you would be interested in assisting with this type of event, please let one of the club officers or our activities manager (TJ Sheffield, KL7TS) know.

The second set of transportable "kits" is being prepared. These will include additional copies of the 4 basic designs, with some modifications suggested by our experience with the initial set. These units have already proven useful in public service events and actual emergency situations (the events of Sept. 11). We are waiting on a production run of small PC boards that will be used as a part of the power controller section of each unit. Once these are in hand, we can commence assembly of "phase 2" of this project. The plan is to create 2 additional sets of each type, to wit: VHF/UHF Crossband repeater, VHF Packet Terminal, VHF Packet "tracker" using APRS, and a VHF "digipeater" that can be used to relay packet signals beyond normal range. We anticipate that these sets will be available for use in about 2 months, sooner if additional help is made available. The total project anticipates that 3 to 5 of each type of kit will be available at the conclusion of this project. Many of you have seen demonstrations (or actual use) of these kits, and we plan to offer training and hands-on demonstrations at several upcoming meetings.

Most of the actual radio sets, at least the ham radio units, are on hand. We decided to purchase these units a bit sooner than we had originally intended, because we were able to take advantage of the special pricing and free delivery offered by HRO / Anaheim at our recent Anchorage Hamfest. By making these purchases at this time, instead of later, we managed to save almost \$2000, which is significant in anyone's book. The radio equipment is stored here in Anchorage at a safe location. We will still need to purchase computers, radios for other services, some antennas, and miscellaneous accessories. Once "Phase 1" of the mobile communications center project is complete, we will assess the results and decide what, if any, other capabilities need to be installed for added flexibility.

We would encourage any club member to drop by and see these projects (contact Jim Wiley, KL7CC 338-0662), and for those of you who would like to assist, your help is welcomed.

Many of you may remember the batch of code-practice sender kits we assembled and that were so enthusiastically received at last summer's Girl Scout event (we "sold out"! ). We are

preparing a second "run" of these kits, and hope to have them available for interested persons soon, hopefully by January. We are thinking of ways that learning about ham radio could be integrated with many youth programs in our area. If you have ideas, please let us know, and as always, if you can assist, we would be glad to hear from you.

The "Tower and Power" trailer project is pretty much complete, except for some suggested additional power distribution options, and the possibility of installing work lights on the trailers, useful during winter operations or as a load bank to stabilize the load change on the generator sets. Some problems with cracked welds were discovered on the AARC trailer in the course of installing the generator, and the situation is being examined to determine whether the trailer can be successfully repaired and made safe, or whether it will need to be replaced. If replacement is required, the generator and antenna mast will be moved onto the new trailer body.

As many of you already know, AARC funded the installation of a pair of 12 KW Diesel generator sets, one installed on the AARC tower trailer, and the other on the SCRC trailer. After considerable discussion, the members of SCRC have decided to offer to donate the entire combination back to AARC, with only the proviso that SCRC be guaranteed access for events of their planning, and that if AARC no longer needs the unit, that it be returned to SCRC. The advantages seen are that the combination of two tower and power trailers "under one roof" so to speak will enhance the abilities of our combined groups to respond in time of emergency, and make the units available to a larger "audience". There would be no costs (other than routine maintenance) involved, since the SCRC trailer is registered as an exempt vehicle (no registration fees) and it is in relatively new condition, being only a couple of years old. It has basically new tires, and the steel and decking are in good condition. This proposal was brought before the AARC board at the November meeting, and will be voted on at the December board meeting. From the SCRC point of view, this means that if repairs are needed, they would be funded by AARC, and from the AARC point of view, they gain another useful piece of emergency equipment for their inventory at little or no direct cost. Each unit would be similarly equipped, each having a 40' crank-up mast, a 20/15/10 meter tri-band antenna, some wire dipoles for 80 and 40 meters, a 12 KW generator, fuel storage, cables and accessories needed for use during a public service event or emergency. It has been proposed to replace the manual winches on each unit with electrically operated winches, which would make set up easier, faster, and safer, and of course now that on-board power is available, a practical alternative.

Well, that's the progress report for now. Work continues, and more reports will be issued as time and circumstances dictate.

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### **On the Lighter Side Three Buttons for Bush**

Mullah Mohammed Hason Akhund, the deputy Taliban leader, and George W. Bush agree to meet in Kabul for the first round of talks in a new anti-terrorism process. When George sits down, he notices there are three buttons on the arm of Akhund's chair they begin talking.

After about five minutes Akhund presses the first button. A boxing glove springs out of a box in the desk and punches Bush in the face Annoyed; Bush carries on talking as Akhund laughs. A few minutes later the second button is pressed. This time a big boot comes out and kicks Bush in the shin. Again Akhund laughs, and again George carries on talking not wanting to put off the bigger issue of peace between the two countries.

But when the third button is pressed and another boot comes out and kicks Bush square in the privates, he's finally had enough. "I'm heading' back home!" he calmly tells the Afghan. "We'll finish these talks in Washington in two weeks!"

A fortnight passes and Akhund flies to the United States for talks. As the two men sit down, Akhund notices three buttons on Bush's chair arm and prepares himself for the Texan's retaliation. They begin talking and George presses the first button. Akhund ducks, but nothing happens.

George snickers but they continue talking. A few minutes later he presses the second button. Akhund jumps up, but again nothing happens. Bush roars with laughter, yet they continue the talks. Then when the third button is pressed, Akhund jumps up again, but again nothing happens.

Bush falls on the floor in a fit of hysterics. "Forget this," says Akhund, all confused. "I'm going back to Afghanistan!"

George W. replies, through tears of laughter, "Afghanistan! What Afghanistan???"

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### **CHINESE GIFT EXCHANGE RULES**

1. Everyone who wants to participate in the gift exchange should bring a gift. If there are two or more people in your party, then bring a gift for each person who wants to participate. Gifts may be humorous, practical, or just nice to have, and should not be gender specific. Gifts need not be expensive, but please no "boat anchors".

2. The gift must be disguised by being wrapped to conceal its true identity. All gifts will be placed together on a table or in a designated area. Do not place a card or other identifying mark on the gift, and do not indicate whom it is from.

3. One ticket with a number printed on it will be given to each person bringing a gift. In other words, you will exchange a gift for a numbered ticket. No gift no ticket! Also, only one

ticket to a person. However, you may donate extra gifts to be used in case someone forgets to bring one.

4. At the beginning of the Chinese Gift Exchange, a number is drawn and the person holding the ticket with that number exchanges the ticket for any one of the unopened gifts, which he/she must open and show to everyone. This person now has the option of exchanging the gift with another person **at any time**, during the gift drawing, or holding onto the gift (if they have not been traded out of it) until the last gift has been drawn, whereby he/she may exchange it for any gift that someone has at any time. **Note this important rule change! The person picking the first gift may exchange it AT ANY TIME during the proceedings**, and need not wait until all gifts have been opened, although they may do so if they wish.

5. Another number is drawn and that person exchanges his or her ticket for a gift.

6. That person now has the option of either opening the gift or exchanging it with the first person's gift.

7. If the gift is opened, then another number is drawn and another person selects a gift and displays the package and 6 above is repeated.

8. If the gift is exchanged, the person with the unopened gift has the option of either opening the gift or exchanging it with another person's opened gift.

9. A gift may be exchanged only three times within one round, then another number must be drawn for the next person. The "round" limit of three (3) may be shortened depending on the number of persons participating in the gift exchange and the nearness of the hour to relinquish the room. A gift is not "secure" until the end of the gift exchange. **Note: Important rule clarification: A limit of 3 exchanges per "round" means only that a gift may be traded a maximum of 3 times during any one round. This does not, however, mean that the gift is "safe" after that round is ended. The gift becomes vulnerable to trading immediately when the next round starts! Again, no gift is "safe" until the event is completely over.**

10. No person may hold an unopened gift. Any Gift received or traded during a "round" must be opened once that "round" has ended.

11. If there happens to be an extra gift or gifts left over, they will be auctioned off. This money will be used to defray any additional costs or contributed to the club. **There will be no trading of auctioned gifts - purchasing a gift at auction does not give you another chance at trading.**

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Alaska Repeater Coordination

Coordination for Alaska repeaters is due no later than December 10 so that it can be submitted for publication in the repeater directory. Information can be submitted by voice, paper or in electronic form to Mel Bowns, KL7GG, Alaska Frequency Coordinator, 23708 The Clearing, Eagle River, AK 99577, Tel=694-9589 FAX=622-5200, email=mel\_bowns@ak-prepared.com. The standard coordination form can be FAX'd upon request or sent as an RTF file (which almost any word processor will open) or a WORD document by email. Requests for email should be sent to kl7cy@arrl.net.

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Haystack was used to security profiling at the Airport. With his bushy beard and radio gadgets, he was always a target to search. The surprise came at Bob's Big Box Store, when Gerta the greeter approached with a scanner. Haystack noticed that the device was not turned on but Gerta seemed to be